

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 267729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, UK

SUBJECT: USNS CHAUVENET CLEARANCE REQUEST, DEC 1976 -
DEC 1978

1. IN ORDER TO SATISFY NAUTICAL CHARTING REQUIREMENTS, THE US NAVY DESIRES TO CONDUCT HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO COMMENCING EARLY DEC 1976 FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS. WHILE EFFORT TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD HYDROGRAPHY, SOME OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA MAY BE COLLECTED. THE RESULTING NAUTICAL CHART AND OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WOULD BENEFIT BOTH THE US AND UK. APPROACH CHART TO DIEGO GARCIA AS WELL AS NEW COASTAL CHARTS OF THE CHAGOS BANKS ARE PLANNED AS A RESULT OF THE SURVEY.

2. USNS CHAUVENET (T-AGS-29), A COASTAL HYDROGRAPHIC
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SURVEY SHIP OPERATED BY MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND UNDER

THE TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE (NAVOCEANO), WOULD CONDUCT THE SURVEYS. PARTICIPATION BY PERSONNEL OF THE UK HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE IS WELCOME. CHAUVENET IS CREWED BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND, AND CARRIES A MILITARY DETACHMENT WHICH CONDUCTS ACTUAL SURVEY OPERATIONS. THE VESSEL (UNARMED, NON-SALUTING AND WHITE HULLED)

CARRIES FOUR SOUNDING LAUNCHES AND A HELICOPTER.

3. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE LAND USE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC SURVEY AIDS ON SEVERAL UK OWNED ISLANDS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT USE OF ELECTRONIC POSITIONING AIDS WILL REQUIRE FREQUENCY CLEARANCE WHICH WILL BE REQUESTED SEPARATELY. GEODETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR POSITIONING OF NAVIGATION AIDS WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH UK HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE POSITIONING AIDS WILL BE PLACED ON THE FOLLOWING ISLANDS: DANGER ISLAND, NELSON'S ISLAND, AND THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF DIEGO GARCIA (VICINITY OF SIMPSON POINT).

4. DEPT IS AWARE THAT INFORMATION IS NOT PRESENTED ON FORM PRESCRIBED IN REFTTEL LONDON A-827. CLEARANCE WILL BE RESUBMITTED IF EMBASSY FEELS THAT UK WILL RAISE OBJECTIONS.

5. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR PROJECT AS DESCRIBED. KISSINGER

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